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FLOOR DEBATE

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Adams, Hall County, you name it. So pardon me if I'm a little frustrated. I went to Morrill Hall as a kid. I took my sons there. I intend to take my grandchildren there. But it seems like the university wants to make cuts where it hurts. I'm not sure I agree with these vertical cuts. Clay Center would have gladly taken a 10 percent cut, or a 3 percent cut. I don't know the answer. I'm a little frustrated. I was a member of the dirty 30, and I'll be there if you need me. But I'm questioning about the need. And I'm questioning about the cooperation of our higher education as we proceed through this process. When have they told the Appropriations Committee, what can we do to help? All they want to do is say, how bad can we hurt you if you don't fund us? These are tough times. I know that my neighboring farmers would tell me, you mean you've got faculty out there at Clay Center making \$80,000 a year plus benefits? Boy, we'd die for a...and I know they have their doctorate degree.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR SCHROCK: But I've got farmers that have two or three million dollars invested in a farm, and their rate of return is probably 2 percent if they're lucky, and they're not paying themselves any wages.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Schrock. Sorry about that. Senator Erdman. Senator Erdman waives his opportunity. Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'm glad, as Senator Schrock has mentioned, the sun is attempting to work its way out. I think it's about time that we start thinking more positively about our state than what I've been hearing. I...this is a great state. It's a state that is going to go places, going to continue to go places. I'm proud to have served on that job that some people would call miserable, seventh year on the Appropriations Committee. But what we have done is to go through each of the items that are presented to us for state spending. And we have tried very hard to assess the real needs of the state. And you hear, well, I don't know that...as one of the senators said, I don't know that